

ITN

Patents



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

**Bernhard Beer, et al.**

Serial No. **10/823,876**

Filed: **April 14, 2004**

For: **FASTENING ELEMENT AND  
FASTENING SYSTEM FOR PLASTIC  
CONTAINERS**

Art Unit: **3679**

Examiner: **Michael P. Ferguson**

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

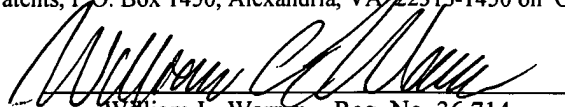
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Communication mailed September 19, 2005, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse Species 1 which encompasses Figures 1-3, drawn to a fastening element. The restriction requirement is respectfully traversed on the basis that the examination of each of the groups of claims would not be an undue burden on the Patent Office because of the close technological relationship of the devices encompassed in claims 1-9.

Furthermore, the elected fastening element in claims 1-9 can be seen in Figures 1, 2, 3 as well as in Figures 6 and 7. The fastening element shown in Figures 6 and 7 may show alternative first bushings 3 (partially open bushings), however, it is still a fastening element according to the common inventive aspect of the claims.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 19, 2005.

  
William L. Warren - Reg. No. 36,714